

recognized and graciously thanked for their service. Our Nation has experienced many wars in a short history, but we have remained safe at home and abroad because of the valiant effort of the members of our armed services. The freedoms and liberty we espouse as a democracy have and will continue to be under threat. However, our veterans and active duty men and women are a testament to the preservation of justice and our form of government.

The families of those who serve our country on the front lines also deserve the admiration and appreciation of each and every citizen. These family members often watch their loved ones travel to faraway lands in support of a cause and an ideal so much greater than any one individual. The support given to our service men and women by their loved ones is irreplaceable, as it is the foundation for the bravery inherent in those who labor steadfastly in the defense of liberty.

Let us also make certain that we remember those individuals who are in harm's way today in Iraq and Afghanistan. Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom are successful because of the members of our armed services who are day in and day out giving their best to keep America safe at home and abroad. They have also sacrificed to secure liberty and democracy for other nations and peoples who desire to be freed from political oppression. Furthermore, let us not forget those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, and let us say a gracious thank you to them for their willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice for liberty.

I believe that the brave men and women who sacrifice for our present freedoms deserve our fullest support. Our Nation's service men and women represent the best our country has to offer, and they must be treated with the respect and honor they deserve. As we ask these courageous soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines—and their families—to do more and more, it's only right we continue doing all we can for them. Recognizing Veterans Day in 2009 is just one small reminder of the superior job our troops perform for America at home and abroad, and it is my hope that we will continue to do all we can and more for the members of our Armed Forces.

TRIBUTE TO LEONARD HAGGERTY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true American hero, an exemplary human being, find yet another wonderful example of the "Greatest Generation" and the story of our Nation. The life of Leonard Haggerty is filled with heroic moments, major milestones, compelling stories and noteworthy achievements. Leonard Haggerty was a friend and colleague in public service and I am honored to pay tribute to him on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Leonard Haggerty was born June 23, 1920, in Quebec, Canada. As a young man with two children and another on the way, Leonard Haggerty was called into the service of his country during World War II. Throughout his

life, Leonard was modestly quiet about his military accomplishments during World War II. When presented with a resolution of accomplishment upon his retirement in December 2008 at the age of 88, Leonard's co-workers on the county board were in awe to learn of his distinguished military career. Leonard Haggerty earned two Battle Stars in the European Theater as an Army infantryman; participated in intense fighting during the Battle of the Bulge; served with a detachment that liberated Dachau; and spent time as a personal bodyguard for General George S. Patton.

Leonard Haggerty began his long and successful career in public service in 1958, when he was appointed village commissioner of Roseville. Once Roseville became a city later that same year, he became a councilman. He served in that capacity until 1975, when he was elected mayor, a position he held until his retirement in 1981. In 1998, Mr. Haggerty came out of retirement in Florida and returned to Michigan to represent District 21 on the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, where he served until last year.

Leonard Haggerty was the heart and soul of the city of Roseville. He served his community with such active devotion and became a mentor to numerous individuals who followed in his footsteps. So many have come forward to highlight the impact Leonard had on their lives over the years, remembering his service, his graciousness to everyone around him and crediting him with getting them involved in public service or civic activity.

Leonard Haggerty was joyful, and anyone that has ever met him would comment about his smile, his dapper dress, and his truly kind and caring nature. He could tell a story and truly enjoyed the playful moments that made up his persona. For example, in 2003, he famously came to the assistance of an elderly constituent who called him saying that she was snowed in. Leonard, who described himself at the time as "83½ years old," arrived alone with a snow shovel in hand and cleared the 82-year-old woman's sidewalk and driveway, including a 2-foot snow drift, in about an hour. In 2004, Leonard made national news when he faced a Republican challenger in the fall election who was 92 years old. Leonard, jokingly ran on the slogan, "Vote for the kid."

These stories and so many other warm and inspirational memories were captured by family members, friends and the Homily of Father Michael Donovan.

Leonard Haggerty was the beloved husband of Jan, whom each and every one of us also calls a dear friend. Leonard and Jan were true partners in every sense of the word through their family, their community and their careers in public service. Leonard was the loving father of Patricia (Joseph) Boris, Shirlee (Robert) Kipp, James (Kathy) Haggerty, Kelly (Roger) Gaines and the late Michael Haggerty and grandfather of eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

The awards have been numerous over the course of Leonard's career and in recent years his colleagues have joined together to enshrine his name on major achievements like the Leonard Haggerty Beautification Awards.

It will be his personal charisma and the way in which he took time to make those around him feel good that will be remembered by most. He will serve in the personal Hall of Fame of so many of us. For this institution of Congress, it is important to recognize the

achievements of a true American hero that fought for his country, served his community and made Roseville, Macomb County, the State of Michigan and the world a better place.

I am honored to have walked with Leonard during part of his incredible journey, and I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the truly remarkable life of Leonard Haggerty.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3548, the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009. There are currently millions of workers who are looking for a job, but through no fault of their own are unable to find employment. This bill would extend emergency unemployment for an additional 20 weeks in high unemployment States like Massachusetts. In Massachusetts alone, the National Employment Law Center estimates that 39,530 workers would be exhausting their benefits if not for the additional assistance created by this bill. I cosponsored this extension, and have been a strong supporter of extended unemployment compensation during economic recessions so that those most directly affected by these difficult times are not left to fend for themselves.

I also support extending the temporary homebuyer tax credit, which will help more Americans purchase homes. Congress first passed this provision in July 2008 by creating a refundable tax credit for first-time homebuyers. The credit served as an interest-free loan. In February, Congress extended the duration of the credit and also waived the repayment requirement. I supported the homebuyer tax credit on both occasions.

H.R. 3548 includes a provision to extend the homebuyer tax credit for 5 additional months and to raise the income cap so more families are eligible. In addition, the measure would provide a \$6,500 tax credit for current homeowners buying a new residence who consecutively live in their home for 5 years. I am a proud supporter of this reasonable extension of the homebuyer tax credit.

I urge my colleagues to pass this bill quickly and clear it for the President.

A TRIBUTE TO JUDGE JOSEPH WAPNER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend Judge Joseph Wapner on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Judge Wapner is being honored by his many colleagues, family, and friends in celebration of his outstanding accomplishments, both in his distinguished legal and television career and his tireless dedication to public service.

Judge Wapner is a lifelong resident of southern California. After graduating from Hollywood High School, he earned his bachelors degree from the University of Southern California and his law degree from USC Law School. He served in World War II and was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his tremendously courageous acts in that conflict.

After being appointed by Governor Pat Brown to the LA Municipal Court where he served for 2 years, he was elevated to the Los Angeles Superior Court, where he served until his retirement. During those years, Judge Wapner starred in the nationally syndicated program, "The People's Court" which made him a bona fide celebrity. Judge Wapner has also recently appeared as a judge in a "Major League Baseball on Fox" pregame People's Court parody segment called "The Player's Court." He has starred, as well, in a number of influential political spots.

Judge Wapner also is the author of two well-received significant books, *A View from the Bench* and *Judge Wapner's Guide to Small Claims Court*. The latter tome is widely used as a helpful tool to navigate the intricacies of our legal system.

With an impressive list of civic organizations in which he takes an active interest, Judge Wapner is a highly respected member of the community. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Alternative Living for the Aging, and serves as honorary chairman of the National Jewish Hospice. He is also the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Golden Glow Award from Senior Health and Peer Counseling and the Maimonides Award from the Legal Services Division of the Jewish Welfare Fund.

Judge Wapner and his wife, Mickey, have been longtime supporters of the Brandeis-Bardin Institute, and the construction of the Moelle Library and tennis and basketball courts at the institute stand as symbols of their generosity and leadership.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending birthday greetings to my dear friend, Judge Joseph Wapner and in paying tribute to his dedication and outstanding contributions to our society.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL CHUPA

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Michael Chupa, an educator, public servant, community leader, businessman, avid hunter and proud family man in Michigan, who passed away on October 5, 2009.

Mr. Chupa was born December 31, 1943, in the city of Detroit. He graduated from Lawrence Technological University and was a grade school teacher at Immaculate Conception. He owned and operated the North American Adjustment Bureau providing property damage adjustment, appraisal and estimation service for southeast Michigan. A leader within the Ukrainian American community he worked

to create the St. Josaphat Parish in 1961 where he served as church council president. St. Josaphat continues to be a strong center of activity for the Ukrainian American community in southeast Michigan.

Mr. Chupa served on the Warren City Council for 16 years. His colleagues describe him as "fair and good-hearted" and even those who may have disagreed with him on a certain policy issue describe him as a "gentleman." Mr. Chupa cared about his community; he always made it a priority to help people and to advocate on behalf of local charities. I appreciated his friendship and always enjoyed working with him and attending alongside him numerous community events.

Mike Chupa was a proud and supportive parent. He and his wife Margaret have four children (Michael, Joseph, Jennifer and Jannen) who continue the tradition of involvement in their church and community.

I am pleased to rise today and pay tribute to the lifetime of service of Michael Chupa, and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his achievements. I extend my condolences to his wife and family and join with the entire community in celebrating his life.

REINTRODUCING THE BRAVE ACT

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Benefit Rating Acceleration for Veterans Entitlements Act of 2009 or BRAVE Act. The BRAVE Act will cut through unnecessary red tape so that our most disabled veterans receive the benefits they deserve. It would make a common sense change to allow veterans receiving a rating of total disability from the Veterans Administration to also receive Social Security disability benefits without going through a separate and duplicative medical evaluation process, a process that can take years to navigate.

In early 2007, when I was first elected to Congress, a veteran-constituent contacted my staff to obtain assistance with his application for social security disability benefits. This veteran had already received a 100 percent disability rating from the Veterans Administration but had been waiting for more than a year to be approved for benefits at the Social Security Administration.

The Social Security Act states that disability means the "inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment." By regulation, the Veterans Administration defines total or 100 percent disability as "any impairment of mind or body which is sufficient to render it impossible for the average person to follow a substantially gainful occupation." Despite the fact that these definitions are virtually the same, many veterans including my constituent endure two complicated and time consuming processes to prove the same condition.

The Commission on Veteran's Disability Benefit found that only 61 percent of those granted Individual Unemployability and 54 per-

cent of those rated totally disabled by the Veterans Administration are receiving Social Security Disability Insurance. The Commission further explained that "it is apparent that either these veterans do not know to apply for SSDI or are being denied the insurance." The Veterans Disability Benefits Commission concluded that "increased outreach should be made and better coordination between VA and Social Security should result in increased mutual acceptance of decisions."

It is for these reasons that I first introduced the BRAVE Act, with broad bipartisan support, in the 110th Congress. The legislation was supported by a range of veteran service organizations including the American Legion, the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and the Paralyzed Veterans of America. The bill is all the more important at a time when we face significant increases in Social Security applications as a result of the aging baby boomer generation and as veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan come home.

Madam Speaker, our Nation's veterans don't deserve a bureaucratic runaround when they return home. I hope my colleagues will join me in support of the BRAVE Act.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL TRUCK DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 6, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service, dedication, and sacrifices of America's professional truck drivers who serve our Nation daily by delivering the clothes we wear, the food we eat, and yes, even the medical prescriptions upon which many of us must rely.

This week, November 1–7, is designated National Truck Driver Appreciation Week and is set aside to honor the 3.5 million professional truck drivers in the United States. One out of every fifteen people across this country is employed in the trucking industry, which is one of our Nation's largest employers.

Truckers serve as the backbone of their industry, which is responsible for a large portion of the total U.S. freight tonnage. Estimates suggest that a majority of communities rely solely on the trucking industry for their goods and commodities. In turn, our economy not only relies, but thrives, on the good work of these men and women.

America's truck drivers work to help keep our highways safe. They follow stringent safety regulations, attend frequent training programs, and help educate the motoring public to make sharing the roadways with tractor-trailers safer.

Finally, Madam Speaker, America's truck drivers sacrifice precious time from their families, all the while, they deliver for ours. This week we pause to say thank you to them and to their families.

I salute these fine individuals along with their understanding families for their commitment to America's future stability, increased prosperity, and for delivering life's essentials safely and securely.